

Appl. No.: 10/665,176
Art Unit: 3711 Docket No.: B03-40
Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10, and 12-20 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Claim 19 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Support for the amendment is found in the Specification, including, for example, on page 4, lines 19-20 and on page 10, lines 17-18.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claim 11 is directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 11. Thus, presently amended claim 1 corresponds to claim 11 rewritten in independent form.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 21-23 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 19 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Applicants believe that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome by this amendment, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action states that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Presently amended claim 1 corresponds to claim 11 rewritten in independent form. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1, as presently amended, is in condition for allowance.

Because each of the remaining claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, Applicants submit that the remaining claims are also in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10 and 12-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,394,914 to Sullivan. This rejection is deemed to be moot in light of the

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present amendments and the Examiner's acknowledgement of the allowability of claim 11, now rewritten in independent form.

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and that the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicants' attorney would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the attorney at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. However, should any required fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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